



Town of Groton, Connecticut

Meeting Agenda

45 Fort Hill Road
Groton, CT 06340-4394
Town Clerk 860-441-6640
Town Manager 860-441-6630

Representative Town Meeting

Moderator Kevin Power, Representatives Jean-Claude Ambroise, Joe Baril, Nancy E. Barnhart, Alicia Bauer, Nancy E. Beckwith, Christopher J. Burns, Michael Collins, Nancy M. Congdon, Warren T. Cooper, Syma Ebbin, Peter Fairbank, Nancy E. Gilly, Patrice Granatosky, Dolores Harrell, Keith L. Hedrick, Damon Q. Helme, Lynn Crockett Hubbard, Michael Dean Johnson, Rosanne E. Kotowski, Elizabeth Luck, Jackie Massett, Carole McCarthy, Karen F. Morton, Scott Newsome, Dana C. Parfitt, Richard J. Pasqualini, Jr., Kristen L. Powers, Don Pratt, Betty A. Prochaska, Sandry Ramos-Morales, John F. Scott IV, Jack Sebastian, Dana S. Semeraro, Jennifer Smuts, Joan Steinfeld, Irma Streeter, Mark Svencer, Archie C. Swindell, and Robert A. Warn

Wednesday, August 18, 2010

7:30 PM

Town Hall Annex-Comm Rm 1

Regular Meeting

- A. ROLL CALL
- B. MOMENT OF SILENCE AND SALUTE TO THE FLAG
- C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JULY 21, 2010
- D. CITIZENS' PETITIONS

This is the portion of the RTM agenda where the RTM welcomes comments from citizens. Each presentation should be limited to ten minutes or less, and citizens should, if possible, submit written comments. Presentations should be limited to matters pertinent to Groton. The Moderator, or members through the Moderator, shall ask questions only in order to clarify the speaker's presentation. Responses may be given by the Moderator and/or by the Town Manager. Citizens should make their presentations from the lectern and state their names and addresses for the record.

- E. RECEPTION OF COMMUNICATIONS
- F. REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER:

- 1. Financial report
- 2. Monthly briefing

- G. LIAISON REPORTS

- H. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- 1. FINANCE

- a. Chairman's notes on the business of the Town

- 2. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & SERVICES

- a. Chairman's notes on the business of the Town - Chairman Pratt

- 3. EDUCATION

- a. Chairman's notes on the business of the Town - Chairman Swindell

2010-0105 Change in Previously Authorized Board of Education
CIP Project

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATION FOR EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGIES FOR THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

WHEREAS, Superintendent of Schools Paul Kadri requested that the Town Council consider a change in a previously authorized Capital Improvement Program project for enhancing educational technologies related to video furnaces, and

WHEREAS, Mr. Kadri feels that a contracted, Web-based software and hosting solution would better meet the current and future needs of the school district, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the FYE 2009 CIP #5F-1 Educational Technologies-Video Furnace for \$73,000 be closed and those funds be transferred to the General Fund, and be it further

RESOLVED, that \$73,000 is appropriated from the General Fund's unreserved, undesignated fund balance to the Board of Education account #10800 - Education Services.

Refer to RTM.

Legislative History

4/22/2010	Mayor	Referred	Town Council Committee of the W
4/27/2010	Town Council Committee of the Whole	Discussed	

The Town Manager explained a request from Superintendent of Schools Paul Kadri to "re-purpose" funding that was approved in 2009 for video furnaces in the schools. The new proposal, which is similar to a subscription service, would accomplish the same goal, but by using a third party host for the videos. Although the proposal does not meet the current definition of a capital improvement project, the dollars have already been allocated and it may be appropriate for the Council to consider the request.

Councilor O'Beirne expressed his opposition to the proposal and feels this is a prime example of jumping on the latest technology before thinking it out. He suggested that the CIP funds be zeroed out and the Superintendent be asked to include it in his budget request next year along with an adequate analysis. The Councilors asked that Mr. Kadri be invited to a meeting to further explain his request.

5/25/2010	Town Council Committee of the Whole	Recommended for a Resolution
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Paul Kadri, Superintendent of Schools, explained that the video furnace project came about as a means to provide professional development and remote access for students. A video furnace is the conduit for providing video content and is a significant ongoing investment. Groton Public Schools subsequently researched other options and considered a system similar to YouTube that would work with the smart boards being used in the classrooms. The solution provides YouTube capability as well as the ability to push video. The hardware and software costs are about \$85,000. \$73,000 was allocated in the CIP. Continuing with the video furnace technology would cost hundreds of thousands of dollars. The video furnaces that have been purchased will be sold or used until their useful life is depleted. Maintenance contracts on the units have not been renewed.

Councilor O'Beirne expressed skepticism about spending money on the latest technology when there are significant cost decreases and capability increases over time. He prefers to wait until there is a proven track record before spending money. Mr. Kadri stated the technology is not new or sophisticated. The payment covers hosting services for the equipment and better connectivity speed, as well as development of the security architecture, administration, and management services. Although the concept of a private video housed location is new, the technology is not.

Councilor Flax asked why YouTube can't be used and Mr. Kadri stated because of security concerns. Groton Public Schools already have video production capabilities and it would take about a year and a half to create a decent video warehouse. The \$85,000 is a one time investment with an ongoing yearly service fee of a couple of thousand dollars per year.

Councilor O'Beirne asked why these funds are not included in the regular budget since this does not qualify as a CIP project. Mr. Kadri suggested this project is consistent with the "communications" project previously approved. If Groton Public Schools had to pay for the project, the money would come out of the computer replacement fund. Discussion followed on funding options.

5/25/2010	Town Council Committee of the Whole	Motion	
<i>to cancel the current CIP project and make a supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$73,000, to be funded by the money in the Capital Reserve Account.</i>			
<i>Discussion followed. Councilor Sheets discussed the legal definition of capital improvement</i>			
6/1/2010	Town Council	Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken	
6/1/2010	Town Council	Adopted and Referred	Representative Town Meeting
<i>Councilor O'Beirne stated that he will be voting against this resolution as he believes that it is an improper use of CIP funds.</i>			
6/4/2010	Representative Town Meeting	Referred	RTM Education Committee
7/15/2010	RTM Education Committee	Discussed	
<i>There was no quorum present.</i>			

7/21/2010 **Representative Town Meeting** **Discussed**
A motion that this matter be adopted was made by Moderator Power, seconded by Rep. Hedrick.

Rep. Bauer gave a brief synopsis of the information provided to the members that were present at the July 15, 2010 meeting.

Director of Technology Services Paul Sikorski explained the differences in technology between video furnaces and the proposed new web-based software and hosting solution. He verified the cost effectiveness of utilizing a web-based system versus the unsustainable expenses of video furnaces for additional schools.

The Manager addressed the concern raised by Rep. Morton as to why the web-based software and hosting solution was not included in the current FYE2011 budget. He clarified that the video furnace was selected by the Board of Education staff and their consultant for the school construction project. He noted that Town staff did not get involved until problems were identified during construction, and that JCJ was not involved at all.

Rep. Semeraro stated that she objects to approving this authorization. She feels it sets a precedent and that the usual process for funding should be followed in the next budget cycle.

Rep. Smuts stated she will not support this authorization because of the process that is being followed to use CIP funds. She objected to the fact that the Superintendent conducted a second study for newer technology in June with remaining FYE2010 BOE funds. She suggested that the BOE fund this item with FYE2011 money or request funding in next year's budget.

Rep. Steinfeld agrees with Reps. Semeraro and Smuts.

The Town Manager noted that Superintendent of Schools Paul Kadri had notified his office that he was unable to attend tonight's meeting. The Manager clarified the Town Council's actions on this item. He suggested that the RTM defer this item until the next meeting to allow the Superintendent an opportunity to be present and answer questions.

7/21/2010	Representative Town Meeting	Postponed to a Certain Time	Representative Town Meeting
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Rep. Massett raised a "Point of Order" to clarify the difference between motions to defer, postpone and table.

The Town Clerk provided clarification and confirmed that the motion to postpone until the next meeting is the most appropriate.

4. RECREATION

a. Chairman's notes on the business of the Town - Chairman Warn

5. PUBLIC SAFETY

a. Chairman's notes on the business of the Town - Chairman Parfitt

6. PUBLIC WORKS

a. Chairman's notes on the business of the Town - Chairman Collins

2010-0156 Reauthorization of Funds - Catherine Kolnaski to Fitch High School for Water Infiltration

RESOLUTION REAUTHORIZING FUNDS ORIGINALLY APPROPRIATED FOR THE KOLNASKI SCHOOL FOR FITCH HIGH SCHOOL

WHEREAS, in FYE 2008 the Town Council and RTM approved a supplemental appropriation of \$500,000 for the Kolnaski school, and

WHEREAS, unexpended funds in the amount of \$141,509.28 remain in account 50107 5862 and are no longer required for Kolnaski school, and

WHEREAS, the Town wants to engage an architectural firm to investigate and provide proposed schematic repair options to address a water infiltration issue at Fitch High School, and

WHEREAS, the Town intends to work with the Town Attorney to seek reimbursement from parties responsible for the water infiltration as appropriate, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the remaining balance of \$141,509.28 designated for the Kolnaski school be reauthorized to engage an architectural firm to start the analysis and determine the appropriate construction method to address the water filtration issue.

Refer to RTM.

Legislative History

7/7/2010	Mayor	Referred	Town Council Committee of the W
7/20/2010	Town Council Committee of the Whole	Discussed	
7/20/2010	Town Council Committee of the Whole	Discussed	
7/20/2010	Town Council Committee of the Whole	Recommended for a Resolution	
7/20/2010	Town Council	Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken	
7/20/2010	Town Council	Adopted and Referred	Representative Town Meeting
7/21/2010	Representative Town Meeting	Referred	RTM Public Works Committee

7. RULES & PROCEDURES

a. Chairman's notes on the business of the Town - Chairman Scott

2010-0027 Possible Changes to 2010 RTM Meeting Schedule

POSSIBLE CHANGES TO 2010 RTM MEETING SCHEDULE

Legislative History

1/20/2010	Representative Town Meeting	Referred	Representative Town Meeting
<i>Rep. Beckwith requested a referral to discuss changing the location and dates of the RTM 2010 regular meeting schedule when the renovations of the Senior Center are completed.</i>			
<i>Moderator Power acknowledged that this will appear on the February agenda.</i>			
2/17/2010	Representative Town Meeting	Referred	RTM Rules & Procedures Commi
<i>Rep. Collins supports changing the meeting date to the second Wednesday of the month.</i>			

Rep. Smuts is in favor of the current schedule and location. She stated that the annex is permanently outfitted with the necessary video equipment.

Rep. Streeter agrees with Rep. Collins and prefers relocating to the newly-renovated Senior Center. She feels there is not enough room at the annex.

Reps. Beckwith, Bauer and Granatosky agree with Reps. Collins and Streeter.

Rep. Cooper feels the RTM should delay any decision to allow members time to tour the renovated Senior Center before deciding.

In response to Rep. Pasqualini, the Town Clerk confirmed there is an additional cost for a building monitor at the Senior Center for each meeting.

The Town Manager stated he can provide the cost for the building monitor. He recommends that any decision to relocate to the Senior Center be delayed until after the Senior Center has officially reopened. He suggested that additional tables can be provided at the next meeting to provide members more space.

Rep. Steinfeld questioned whether the Annex could be made available to the RTM on the second Wednesday of the month.

In response to Rep. Beckwith, the Moderator referred this item to the RTM Rules and Procedures. Rep. Beckwith requested that the committee evaluate the discussion at this meeting and investigate changing the RTM meeting date to the second Wednesday of the month and relocating the meeting to the new Senior Center.

3/17/2010 RTM Rules & Procedures Discussed
Committee

4/21/2010 Representative Town Meeting Discussed

Chairman Scott reported the survey results from the members who responded by April 15, 2010 and noted that the committee will be scheduling another meeting after budget deliberations have concluded.

I. OTHER BUSINESS

J. ADJOURNMENT